



# NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2006

## Summer 2006 Newsletter

**Welcome Reception for  
Our Neighbors in Maine  
at  
Nanticoke Valley Historical  
Society Museum**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 6 to 9 pm**

**Finger Food, Hors d'oeuvres,  
Cheese and Refreshments.**

**It will be an Open House at the Museum (until 9),  
And the School House and Mill (until 8 - no lights)**

**We would like all our neighbors  
To come and join us in celebrating  
The Town of Maine's appealing way of life  
And its Wonderful History**

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*Newsletter edited by  
Anita & Dick Shipway*

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### Seasons of Love A Musical Tribute to Ken Rozek

**Sept. 15th & 16th @ 7 PM, Sept. 17th @ 2PM  
At the Maine Memorial School**

**General admission \$5  
Reserved Patron Seating \$10  
Contact Joanne Weir for tickets (785-6408)**

BELOW IS SOME INFORMATION ON OUR SOCIETY; ON HOW EASY IT IS TO JOIN. HOW MUCH FUN IT WOULD BE TO BE A PART OF IT AND HOW IT WOULD FIT INTO YOUR COMMUNITY LIFE.

The purpose for which the Society was formed is to conduct, operate and maintain a historical society, conducted, operated and maintained exclusively for educational purpose within the intent and meaning of Section 501.

- To develop and preserve the history and the historic sites in the Nanticoke Valley and it's environs in the town of Maine, Nanticoke and Union in Broome County and the towns of Newark Valley and Owego in Tioga County.
- To collect, preserve and exhibit such things as deal with this area.
- To have and hold for the purposes of enclosure, presentation and the erection of monuments, but not for business purposes, the sites of old forts, battlegrounds and other historic sites, not exceeding six acres in any one locality.
- To do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing objectives of or in advancement there of, authorized by the Education Law.

WHO CAN JOIN -Any person interested in the history of the Nanticoke Valley and its environs who applies for membership and tenders the prescribed dues shall thereby become a member.

- Annual Dues are as follows:

Individual membership-	\$6.00
Family membership-	\$ 10.00
Patron and Business-	\$ 25.00
- Dues paid in November, and our Fiscal year is from January 1st to December 31st.
- Meetings and Programs -Usually at 7 pm, 3rd Tuesday of each Month. There are no meetings July, August, December and January.

Our meetings are usually quite short, except for the munchies and small talk. We then have a speaker or program and are home at 9 pm.

## WHY JOIN?

First of course, is the responsibility to our ancestors to serve the past but also to the future to give our children the education of the past to use to make informed decisions for the betterment of our community and society .

Second is the need to lend support to our society, in making our town a better place to live, so that our neighbors and children will be proud of it. That our ancestors who worked hard to make a great place to live in the past, be proud of how we are now preserving their memories and possessions.

Third is the social experience of sharing programs with like minded people. Our meetings are as much a social event as a learning experience with a diverse array of speakers and programs in a very informal and friendly atmosphere. They usually end up with great discussions and our members adding their own memories to the presentation. Also members bringing in objects that they have saved from their ancestors, to share more history, also adds to the evening.

## HELP IS NEEDED

With more members, more ideas, more grants, we can make it better.

MANY TOWNS DON'T HAVE THE ASSETS WE HAVE, SO COME OUT AND USE THEM AND HELP US PRESERVE THEM. THEY ARE OUR MUSEUM, OUR SCHOOL HOUSE NO. 4, OUR PITCHERS MILL , OUR NORTON CARRIAGE BARN AND THE MOST FAVORATE OF THE SCHOOL TOURS "THE OUTHOUSE".

## Museum Tours

Small personal tours: Call Sue Lisk, 862-9705 or Nancy Berry 862-4527 . School Tours: Sandy Rozek 862 – 9480 and for the Pitcher Mill tours: Tom Kotasek 754 – 0381.



## Pioneers to Maine

Reprinted from "A Short History of Maine, New York" (Chapter 1)

Compiled by Shirley L. Woodward

Historian, Town of Maine, 1973

**Note:** We are planning to re-issue the book this chapter is from. We understand there are some awkward to read bits and some seemingly not right sections. Please look for such spots, as you read it, and point them out to Sue Lisk so they can be addressed for the new publication.

To Contact Sue: Sue Lisk, 2625 Main St., P. O. Box 275, Maine, NY 13802, or E-Mail at [Slisk@stny.rr.com](mailto:Slisk@stny.rr.com) or Phone at (607) 862-9705.

When the ancient glaciers receded from this part of the continent, they left behind many fertile valleys and scenic hills which rise to a height of 700 or 800 feet above sea level. It is thought that before the Ice Age Period the land of this area was drained toward the Great Lakes. After the Ice Age our land was thickly forested with pine, although there were many oak, hemlock, maple, elm, and hard nut trees here also. The pine forest, contributed in the 1880's, to Maine's thriving lumber and tanning industries.

In Maine the principal streams are the Bradley Creek, the Crocker Creek and the Naticoke Creek. Rising a little east of the center of the town, Bradley Creek flows in a southwest direction, emptying into the Naticoke Creek a little south of the north line of Union. This creek received its name from Medad Bradley who settled in Union Center around 1790. He and his sons had several saw mills up and down the stream. Crocker Creek which enters the town near the southwest corner of (the Hamlet of) Maine flows in a generally southeast direction to enter the Naticoke Creek. Crocker Creek was named for Oliver Crocker who, for many years, owned a saw mill located just west of (the current) Route 26 on this creek. It was his father, Ezekiel Crocker, who settled Hooper during the 1790's. This creek was also called the Brougham Creek after the John Brougham family who had a mill a few miles up the creek toward Newark Valley. Naticoke Creek, itself, flows almost due south through to the town of Union and finally empties into the Susquehanna River. The name Naticoke which means "The Water People" came from a tribe of Indians known as the Naticokes who had been driven out of Maryland in the late 1600's. They settled at first in New York State but later moved on to find better hunting grounds.

There are several other creeks in the area such as the East Branch of the Naticoke that forks off toward Glen Aubrey just above Delano Corners and follows along near Route 26. Another creek, the Ketchumville Branch of the Naticoke, forks off to the northwest just north of Maine through to the village of Ketchumville in Tioga County. This branch was named after Ithamer Ketchum who settled there in the 1820's and whose son, Seneca, lived in Maine where he ran a hotel for many years.

Patterson Creek runs south along the east side of Farm-to-Market Road (formerly Patterson Creek Road) through Union (Endwell) and into the Susquehanna River. Amos Patterson, a Revolutionary War soldier, settled in Union (now Endwell) by the mouth of this creek in 1790 so the creek is named after his family. Lewis Creek flows southeast out of Tioga County and into the Naticoke Creek just south of the (hamlet) of Maine and was named after the Thompson Lewis family from Rhode Island who settled in Maine in 1813. Daugherty Creek flows southeast out of Tioga County along Daugherty Road into the Naticoke Creek about a mile south of the hamlet of Maine and was named for the Joseph Daugherty family. Little Choconut Creek flows south along the eastern border of the town of Maine, through New Ireland and on to the Susquehanna River. The name was derived from the Indian name "Cohacta" meaning "Trees Under Water", because of the reflection in the slow clear waters along the banks which gives the illusion of trees growing under water. West Creek is another stream that flows southeast out of East Maine into New Ireland where it joins Little Choconut Creek.

The soil of Maine is best adapted to grazing, being a gravelly loam, and slate. The town covers an area of 27,319 3/4 acres. The village (hamlet) lies about 916 feet above sea level. The Broome County Airport in Maine township is located on the highest hills in East Maine, over 1600 feet. The lowest height is south central Maine and is about 887 feet above sea level.

As the large farms of Maine today are devoted to the dairy industry, the principal crops are hay and field corn. On nearby hills there are some apple orchards and strawberry patches. A few hundred bushels of potatoes are grown.

It was only natural that the Red Man should prize this region very highly not only for the game and the wild fruits and berries and roots which they dug but for the valleys in which they could grow such crops as they were able to plant, chiefly corn. By reason of this, the region was stubbornly contested by many tribes.

Following the Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Massacre in 1778 an expedition was organized by General John Sullivan, under the direction of George Washington, to drive the Indians from this part of the country. General Sullivan's army came up the Susquehanna River from Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and a company under General James Clinton came down the river in boats from its source at Otsego Lake. On August 19, 1799, a detachment from Sullivan's Army under General Poor met Clinton's Army at Union, in the neighborhood of the (ed. current Union District of Endicott).

A large portion of the men in these armies were from the New England States, and they were very much impressed by the territory, so much so, that some of them eventually returned to settle along the new frontier. At least they must have carried back many stories, for we find most of the early inhabitants coming from New England, principally Massachusetts. The first one to actually take up land was a short distance up the Chenango or "Ochenang" River in 1787.

Maine was situated within a tract of 230,000 acres of land known as the "Boston Purchase", or "Massachusetts Ten Townships", purchased by a group of sixty residents of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, on November 7, 1787. The purchase price was 333 Spanish Dollars. The land cost twelve and one-half cents per acre but was subject to any title that the Indians might have. Previously, Samuel Brown, with three other grantees; Elijah Brown, Orringe Stoddard, and Joseph Raymond, representing the Boston Company, and two white settlers, Amos Draper, a trader living near (present day) Vestal, and James McMaster, a farmer near Owego, made a satisfactory treaty with the Indians of this territory on June 22, 1787.

The first settler in Maine was Benjamin Norton from Stockbridge, Massachusetts who settled about three-fourths of a mile north of the present village (hamlet) site, in 1794.

In 1796 Jed Dudley also from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, came by ox team across the frozen Hudson and Catskill Rivers, over the mountains near Stamford and down the Susquehanna Valley to Chenango Point, by primitive road to Union, and then through the "Wilderness" to a point about halfway between what is now Union Center and Maine. There he built a log cabin, later replaced by a plank house, near the site of the present Maine Cemetery.

In 1795 Russell and Alfred Gates, of East Haddam, Massachusetts, who came in 1791 to "Chenango Point" and who were not satisfied with the soil there, migrated up the Nanticoke Valley to the end of the road near "Centerville" at the Dudley place. From there they cut their way through the wilderness to a place about four miles up the west branch of the Nanticoke Creek. It was necessary to continually guard against wolves and other wild beasts as all sorts of game and wildlife were plentiful at that time; however, little trouble was experienced with the Indians as most of them had begun to leave following the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign. The Gates families were soon followed by the Daniel Howard and Winthrop Roe families in the same year.

Timothy Caswell was one of the first settlers in the area known as Allentown, in 1815. Ebenezer and Matthew Allen settled in that area in 1836. Marsena H. McIntyre settled in the northwest corner of the town in 1829. This area became known as the McIntyre Settlement and later North Maine.

From 1800 - 1810 many of the pioneers to Maine were Revolutionary soldiers who had been through this area during the war. We know of seven or eight who settled within the Town of Maine and two on the southern edge of town in the neighborhood of Centerville, now Union Center.

Aaron Delano and John Durfee both came from Connecticut early in the 1800's. Martin and Samuel Ingraham (Ingram) settled in East Maine early, but it is not known from whence they came. Asaph Morse, John Wilson, Thomas Marean and possibly Daniel Chamberlain of Union, all settled in Maine from Massachusetts and New York. Phineas Pomeroy and Abner Rockwell, both of Massachusetts, settled in Union Center.

Moses Delano, son of Aaron Delano the Revolutionary Soldier, and Nathaniel Slosson are supposed to be the first settlers in the vicinity of East Maine. Their arrival was near 1812. Samuel Stone and John Payne with his son, Heman, came to East Maine in 1816. James Ketchum, who had settled near Binghamton in about 1790, moved to a point three miles south-east of Maine in 1802.

Thomas Marean is the best known of Maine's Revolutionary soldiers. Following is the story of his youthful days by Donald Marean Bostwick, a descendant:

"The Brothers-in-Law"

This story we find in a "Bulletin of the Broome County Historical Society", dated November 1960. "In October 1776 Amos Patterson was at White Plains, when the armies were encamped within sight of each other. He and another soldier, Thomas Marean, managed to pass the British sentries one night and they went to a meadow in which British horses were pastured. They each took a fine horse on which they returned in safety to their own lines."

Amos Patterson and Thomas Marean were brothers-in-law, Thomas Marean having married Esther Patterson, a sister of Amos. In 1785 or 1786 Amos Patterson was one of eleven men, later enlarged to 60, who formed a Company interested in purchasing a large tract of land to the West, later known as "Boston Purchase".

During the years of 1786 - 1791 Patterson spent most of his time in this part of New York State, excepting the winters. In 1793, after building a log cabin near the present Hooper area (present lower Endwell), he returned to Massachusetts for his family, and with them he brought his sister and her husband, Tomas Marean. Thus they are among the very first settlers in Broome County, and Marean settled in the town of Maine.

Thomas Marean was born October 17, 1753, in Watertown, Massachusetts, and died in Maine February 24, 1829. He married Esther Patterson, also born in Watertown January 10, 1756, who died in Maine, August 15, 1832. They are buried in Maine Cemetery. Thomas Marean was a Private in Captain Amos Rathbun's Company, Lieut. Col. David Roseter's detachment of militia; enlisted August 15, 1777, but there is no record of his service in previous years -notably October 1776 while at White Plains, New York."

Other Revolutionary soldiers are:

Samuel Ingraham; died June 18, 1847. Buried in a cemetery on the East Maine Road. New York State Pension Roll, Act of 1840, census of pensioners, Town of Union, Broome County, New York, age 80, head of family.

Asaph Morse; born 1760 and died 1853, wife Clarissa Dudley who was born 1770 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and died 1831. New York State Pension Roll Act of 1840, Town of Nanticoke, Broome County, New York, age 80, head of family was J. French. They are buried in the Glen Aubrey cemetery.

Phineas Pomeroy; New York State Pension Roll Act of 1818, private, yearly allowance \$96.00, sums received \$1,081.80. He died August 8, 1829. His wife, Rebecca Spaulding, died aged 62. They are buried *in* the cemetery at Union Center.

John Wilson; of Greenville, New York, to Union (now Maine) 1839. Enlisted as Pvt. 1st Regt. New York lines under Col. Van Shaick. Broome County census 1840 - age 76 as head of house and pensioner.

Aaron Delano; of Tolland, Connecticut, came to Maine 1806 with family. In 1823 on trip back to Connecticut he died and *is* buried there. Thus he *is* not recorded *in* Broome County Revolutionary Veterans' lists.

Daniel Chamberlain; listed *in* 1840 census of Union as age 86; pensioner and head of family.

Abner Rockwell; settled Union Center 1792; was Sgt. *in* Battle of Lexington; buried Riverside Cemetery, Union.

John Durfee; born 1762; died 1843; settled Union (now Maine); served in Col. Ely's Regiment, Capt. Baldwin -sent to Rhode Island where he saw both land and naval service. State Pension Roll of 1832 yearly allowance \$20.00. 1840 census of Nanticoke age 77, head of family.

## The Board of the Nanticoke Valley Historical Society

- Each voting board position has a three year term. Three board positions are to be refilled each year, providing an ever changing but ongoing board coverage.
- Martha Hanitchak, Yancy Moore, and Nancy Rutkowski will complete their terms this year.
- Board members Sandy Rozek (elected to finish Ken's term), Betty Welch and Leo Welch will serve through the year 2007.
- Board members Sue Hoskins, Steve Beukema, and Sara Clavez will complete their commitments in 2008

### Officers and Committee Leaders

President: Stan Lisk  
 Vice President: Nancy Berry  
 Secretary: Alice Hopkins  
 Treasurer: Dottie Winans  
 Museum Curator: Sue Lisk  
 Education Coordinator: Sandy Rozek  
 Mill restoration: Tom Kotasek

### 2006 Dues Are Now being Accepted

Please use the dues return slip below. On the top of your address label is printed your dues Paid/Due status for years 2005 and 2006. Your dues may either be mailed to the Treasurer at the address on the Slip or given to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting (in an envelope with your name on it and the dues slip enclosed).

**Note:** If your dues have been paid since April 2006, your address label may not reflect this payment.

## Schedule of Fall Meetings & Events

- **Friday August 18th @ 7 to 9 PM:** Welcome Reception for our neighbors in Maine.
- **Sept. 15th, 16th (@ 7 PM), and 17th (@ 2 PM):** Seasons of Love - A musical tribute to Ken Rozek at the Maine Memorial School.
- **Tuesday September 19th @ 7:00 PM:** Memories of past Productions - Slides of Musicals and Activities that the Historical Society has put on in the past.
- **Tuesday October 17th @7:00 PM:** Stories and Stuff - Thrills and chills from Maine's past direct from the curator's files, as told by Sue Hoskins and Sue Lisk.
- **Tuesday November 21st @ 7:00 PM:** The Victorian Table - In the Victorian period there was a serving piece for everything. We will show some of these unusual pieces to you. Also, if you have any of your own, please bring them. If you would like to bring a Harvest treat from COOKING UP THE CREEK please feel free to do so.

**Dues Return Slip - Please Circle Year(s):**    **2005**    **2006**

**Note:** See address label for your Dues Status.

<b>Please Mail Returns to:</b> Treasurer	<b>Is this name or address a change from your address label?</b>
Nanticoke Valley Historical Society	Yes ___ No ___
P. O. Box 75	
Maine, NY 13802	
<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Amount Enclosed</b>
<b>Street Address:</b> _____	\$ _____
<b>City/State/Zip:</b> _____	
<b>Phone: (Home)</b> _____ <b>(Work)</b> _____	
<b>Dues:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$6.00 Single <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Business	

## **Gift Ideas to Treat Yourself or a Special Someone**

Framed prints of Pictures of area buildings and homes, painted by local artists are available at the museum and at the Rozeks' Summer of 42 Art Gallery. The items also include note card sized prints suitable for sending or framing.

Support the Historical Society and share local talent with others. Prices range from \$2.00 for note cards to \$40.00 for framed prints with various prices in between.

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### **NANTICOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO Box 75  
Maine, NY 13802